

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 13, and 20 are amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for participating in the telephonic interview conducted on April 10, 2006.

In the November 16, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claim 17. Applicants thank the Examiner for so indicating.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 11-13 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,052,665 (hereinafter Momii) in view of Berkhout, U.S. Patent No. 5,142,546 (hereinafter Berkhout) and further in view of Murphy, U.S. Patent No. 5,921,035 (hereinafter Murphy). (*November 16 Office Action, page 2*) The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Berkhout, in view of Murphy, and in further view of Flannagan et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,008,376 (hereinafter Flannagan). (*November 16 Office Action, page 16*) The Examiner rejected claims 8-10 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Berkhout, in view of Murphy, in view of Flannagan, and further in view of Asayama, U.S. Patent No. 5,784,467 (hereinafter Asayama). (*November 16 Office Action, page 18*) The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Berkhout, in view of Murphy, and further in view of Shimauchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,661,813 (hereinafter Shimauchi). (*November 16 Office Action, page 20*) The Examiner rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Berkhout, in view of Murphy and further in view of Miyahira et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,321,848 (hereinafter Miyahira). (*November*

16 Office Action, page 22) Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A picked-up-sound reproducing method for picking up a sound present in a first sound field and reproducing the picked-up sound in a second sound field, said picked-up-sound reproducing method comprising:

detecting a sound pressure present in said first sound field and a sound pressure reproduced in said second sound field to produce a first detected sound pressure;

detecting a sound pressure with which the sound present in said first sound field picked up in said first sound field and reproduced in said second sound field is picked up in said second sound field to produce a second detected sound pressure;

adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field such that the sound pressure present in said first sound field and the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field assume a predetermined relationship by *detecting a sound pressure difference between the first detected sound pressure and the second detected sound pressure*, and equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a wall surface in the second sound field such that the sound pressure difference is minimized, wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.

The Momii reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the method specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the method specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Momii does not teach a method including “*detecting a sound pressure with which the sound present in said first sound field picked up in said first sound field and reproduced in said second sound field is picked up in said second sound field* to produce a second detected sound pressure.” (hereinafter “detecting” limitation)

Instead, the Momii reference is directed to a technique for eliminating the difference in transmitted sound levels at respective terminals to realize a television conference system which does not cause a sense of disorder. (Momii; Abstract and Col. 1, lines 7-10 and 60-67) Momii discloses that transmitted sound levels from a plurality of terminals are adjusted to be equalized

at the same level. (*Momii; Col. 8, lines 13-24*) The difference in sound intensity detected at microphone 1 and the desired output setting of another entity terminal 7 is calculated. The sound detected by microphone 1 is then adjusted via electronic volume 3 based on the aforementioned difference, and transmitted to terminal 7. This is distinct from the method disclosed in claim 1, because Momii fails to teach a method which includes “*detecting a sound pressure with which the sound present in said first sound field picked up in said first sound field and reproduced in said second sound field is picked up in said second sound field*”

In addition, Momii fails to teach a method which includes “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field such that the sound pressure present in said first sound field and the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field assume a predetermined relationship by *detecting a sound pressure difference between the first detected sound pressure and the second detected sound pressure*, and equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a wall surface in the second sound field such that the sound pressure difference is minimized.” (hereinafter “adjusting” limitation) Rather, Momii teaches that an adjustment in sound intensity is made based on the difference between sound intensity detected at the microphone 1 and a desired output setting at another terminal. This is not the same as adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in the second sound field by “*detecting a sound pressure difference between the first detected sound pressure and the second detected sound pressure*, and equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a wall surface in the second sound field such that the sound pressure difference is minimized.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over the Momii

reference.

The Berkhou reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii. Berkhou discloses a method for realizing a sound filed of a desired hall 7 in a real hall 5. A sound field convolution operation for convolving direct sound $S_m(t)$ between sound field 9 in the real hall 5 and receiving point 6 with an impulse response $r_{mn}(t)$ between sound field 9 in the real hall 5 and receiving point 6 with a parameter $R_{mn}(\omega)$ in the desired hall being selected. However, the combination of Momii and Berkhou fails to disclose, teach, or suggest the detecting limitation and the adjusting limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Momii in combination with Berkhou.

The Murphy reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii and Berkhou. The Murphy reference is directed to a drive through restaurant and window station. (*Murphy; Col. 1, lines 3-5*) Murphy discloses a drive through window station whereby a customer may order a meal item, oversee and direct the preparation of meal items and pay for and receive the items without leaving the car. (*Murphy; Col. 2, lines 32-45*) A two way communication means such as a combination speaker/microphone unit is provided to allow the customer and food preparer to communicate. (*Murphy; Col. 2, lines 60-63*) However the combination of Momii, Berkhou, and Murphy does not disclose, teach, or suggest a method including the detecting limitation and the adjusting limitation. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over Momii in combination with Berkhou and Murphy.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 13, all as amended, recite limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4, 6, and 13 distinguish over Momii in combination with Berkhou and Murphy for reasons similar to those

set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claim 5 depends from independent claim 3, as amended. Claims 7-12 and 21 depend from claim 6, as amended and claims 14-16 and 18-20 depend from claim 13 as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 7-12, 14-16 and 18-21 distinguish over Momii in combination with Berkhout and Murphy for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 3, 6, and 13.

With respect to claims 7-10 and 14-16, the Flannagan reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii, Berkhout, and Murphy. The Flannagan reference is directed to a loudspeaking teleconferencing system. (*Flannagan; Col 1, lines 5-7*) Flannagan discloses a loudspeaking teleconferencing circuit including locations 604, 605, 606 and 607, each of which includes a speakerphone set arrangement, interconnected via a conference bridge 610. (*Flannagan; Col 10, lines 46-58 and FIG. 6*) However, the combination of Momii, Murphy and Flannagan does not disclose a method including the detecting limitation and the adjusting limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-10 and 14-16 distinguish over Momii in combination with Berkhout, Murphy, and Flannagan.

With respect to claims 8-10 and 15-16, the Asayama reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii, Berkhout, Murphy, and Flannagan. Asayama is directed to a method and apparatus for reproducing acoustic characteristics of sound waves which are issued from a sound source and propagated to an arbitrary point in a three-dimensional virtual space. (*Asayama; Col. 1, lines 7-12*) However, the combination of Momii, Berkhout, Murphy, Flannagan, and Asayama does not disclose a method including the detecting limitation and the adjusting limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 and 15-16 distinguish over Momii in combination with Berkhout, Murphy, Flannagan, and Asayama.

With respect to claim 20, the Shimauchi reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii, Berkhout, and Murphy. The Shimauchi reference discloses a method and apparatus for multi-channel acoustic echo cancellation. (*Shimauchi; Col. 1, line 5-10 and Col. 5, lines 6-12*) However, the combination of Momii, Berkhout, Murphy, and Shimauchi does not disclose, teach, or suggest a method including the detecting limitation and the adjusting limitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 distinguishes over Momii in combination with Berkhout, Murphy, and Shimauchi.

With respect to claim 21, the Miyahira reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii, Berkhout, and Murphy. The Miyahira reference is directed to a wireless audio communication system for use in a drive up business. (*Miyahira; Col. 1, lines 8-13*) Miyahira discloses a communication system having sound absorbent material 44 which helps to provide acoustic isolation between the speaker and the speaker enclosure. (*Miyahira; Col. 4, lines 30-52*) However, the combination of Momii, Berkhout, Murphy and Miyahira does not disclose, teach, or suggest a method including the detecting limitation and the adjusting limitation. Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 distinguishes over Momii in combination with Berkhout, Murphy, and Miyahira.

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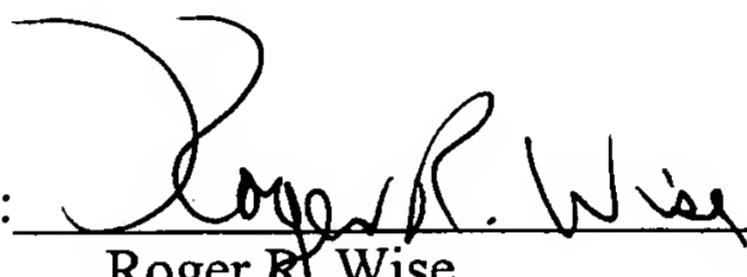
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Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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